

INVENTION PATENT

SCHLUMBERGER SYSTEMES

A wrapped-card assembly and method of manufacturing the same.

Invention of:

**Hayat El Yamani, Sophie Damato, Yann Limelette,
Alfredo Loreto**

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention concerns a wrapped-card assembly comprising a wrapping and a data encoded card enclosed therein. The invention also concerns a method for manufacturing such a wrapped-card assembly.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 A prior art wrapped-card assembly for a GSM telephone service comprises a wrapping and enclosed therein a data encoded card and an auxiliary card. The data-encoded card comprises a subscriber identity module ("SIM") for accessing the GSM telephone service. The auxiliary card comprises
15 confidential and non-confidential information in a printed form. The confidential information comprises two secret codes needed to access the GSM telephone services, namely a personal identification number ("PIN") and a personal unblocking key ("PUK"). The PIN and the PUK are covered by
20 a non-transparent scratch material. The confidential information remains therefore non readable until an end-user opens the wrapping and subsequently removes the scratch material. The non-confidential information is readable through the wrapping. It can be, for example, a
25 magnetic strip, a laser strip or a code bar containing all the information related to the manufacturing process such as, for example, an identification number or the price. In a matching step, for each data-encoded card the corresponding auxiliary card is selected. The data-encoded
30 card and the corresponding auxiliary card are wrapped into a single wrapping. The wrapping can be made of a transparent material.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to allow a cost reduction.

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According to an aspect of the invention, a wrapped-card assembly comprises a data-encoded card enclosed in a wrapping, said data encoded card comprising confidential and non-confidential information in a visible form, wherein
10 said wrapping comprises:

- an opaque area which covers at least partially the confidential information ;
and
- 15 - a transparent area which covers at least partially the non confidential information.

The confidential information remains non-visible
20 until the opening of the wrapping. Compared with the conventional wrapped-card assembly, the invention does not require an auxiliary card and therefore no matching step anymore. Furthermore, the invention does not require the depositing of scratch material. Consequently, the invention
25 allows a cost reduction.

These and other aspects of the invention will be described in greater detail hereinafter with reference to drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 35 - Figure 1 illustrates an example of data encoded card according to the invention,

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- Figure 2 illustrates a wrapped-card assembly according to the invention,
 - Figure 3 illustrates a card body of a data encoded card and a removable integrated circuit module, which has been
- 5 detached from the card body.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 illustrates a data-encoded card C. The data
 10 encoded card C comprises a main body MB and a subscriber
 identity module ("SIM") RM which is detachable from the
 main body MB. The main body comprises confidential
 information CD and non-confidential information NCD in a
 visible form. More specifically, the confidential
 15 information comprises a PIN and a PUK and the non-
 confidential information comprises, for example, an
 identification number or the price of the wrapped card.

FIG. 2 illustrates a wrapped-card assembly
 20 comprising the data encoded card C which is enclosed by a
 wrapping film P. The wrapping film P has a transparent area
 TA and a non-transparent area NTA. The non-transparent area
 NTA covers the confidential data CD illustrated in Fig 1.
 25 The non-confidential data NCD can be read through the
 transparent area TA of the wrapping film P. The wrapping
 film P may be, for example, a cellophane film, a
 polystyrene film, a polypropylene film or any other well-
 known material used to make a wrapping film. The non-
 30 transparent area NTA of the wrapping film P is, for example
 obtained by printing an opaque ink. The opaque ink is, for
 example, a layer of metallic printing or a layer of black
 printing. The non-transparent area NTA can be uniformly of
 the same colour, for example grey. The non-transparent area
 35 can also be made of a more complicated texture. Preferably
 the data encoded card is wrapped into the wrapping film P

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subsequent to a personalization step, in which the confidential information is printed. The wrapping film P is sealed by means of, for example, a sealing jaw. The wrapping film P in its sealed state constitutes the warranty that nobody read the confidential information.

FIG. 3 illustrates that an end user may open the sealed wrapping and detach the subscriber identity module ("SIM") RM. The end user can put the subscriber identity module ("SIM") in a mobile phone. The main body MB containing the PIN and PUK can be stored in a secured place.

The embodiment described above is within the context of GSM telephone services and uses a subscriber identity module ("SIM"). The invention can be applied in other types of services, for examples banking, e-purse or identification of person for accessing a restricted area. The subscriber identity module ("SIM") could be substituted by any other removable integrated circuit module associated with confidential information CD.

Any suitable material may be used for wrapping. For example, a wrapping made of cellulose i.e. a paper can be used to wrap the data-encoded card C. This wrapping can be in particular a sealed envelope in which the data encoded card has been put. An opening in the envelope leaves the non-confidential information visible.

There is many alternatives to the embodiment described with reference to the drawings (Fig. 1-3). For example, although Fig. 1 illustrates that the confidential CD and non-confidential NCD information are in the same side, it is possible to have confidential information CD on one side and non-confidential information NCD on the other side.

In an alternative embodiment the non-confidential information NCD may be comprised on the subscriber identity module ("SIM").

- 5 The confidential information CD and non-confidential information NCD may be, for example, printed, engraved or embossed.

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